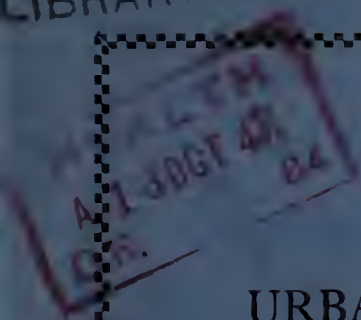
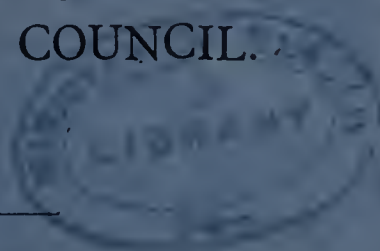


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BROWNHILLS
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.



Annual Report

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

AND

Chief Sanitary Inspector,

ON THE WORK OF THE

Public Health Services,

1946

HEALTH COMMITTEE.

(1946).

COUNCILLOR DR. F. R. ROBERTS, *Chairman*.

COUNCILLOR J. LAWLEY, J.P., *Chairman of the Council*.

COUNCILLOR S. T. BREEZE, J.P., *Vice-Chairman of the Council*.

COUNCILLORS R. C. BAKER.

G. CLEWS.

E. GRANTHAM.

J. D. HOLLAND.

R. A. JONES.

D. MARKLEW.

W. H. PROFFITT.

L. SADLER.

W. A. YATES.

OFFICIALS OF THE DEPARTMENT.

Medical Officer of Health (Part-time):

DR. R. G. BRADFORD M.D., M.M.S.A.

Chief Sanitary Inspector:

JOHN WILSON, M.R.San.I. M.S.I.A., A.M.I.S.E.,

Certificate of R.S.I. as Inspector of Meat
and Other Foods.

Certificate of R.S.I. as Smoke Inspector.

Certificate of R.S.I. in Sanitary Science as
applied to Buildings and Public Works.

Additional Sanitary Inspectors:

(1) DAVID BRADBURY, M.S.I.A.

(Retired 31st May, 1946).

(2) HARRY BEELEY, M.S.I.A.

(From 1st October, 1946).

Clerks:

EAN MARKLEW.

GEOFFREY CROWF.

Ambulance Driver:

S. JONES.

Handyman:

FRANK DAVIES.

Rodent Operative:

E. MARKLEW.

BROWNHILLS URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,

1946

Public Health Department,
Council Offices,
Brownhills.

*To the Chairman and Members of
Brownhills Urban District Council.*

MR. CHAIRMAN, MRS. JACKSON AND GENTLEMEN,

The Staff of the Health Department during the greater part of the year has been working under difficulties. The Chief Sanitary Inspector has had to cope with the work himself. The newly appointed Assistant Sanitary Inspector had to leave to take up another appointment after a short stay in the district. All this at a time when the pressure of work held up during the War years has been greater than ever before. Progress has been stayed considerably, and it will be some time yet before the Department will be able to extricate itself from the accumulated work of previous years.

The population of our district estimated to the middle of the year is 21,020. This does not show a great increase on previous years. I feel that a census of the district would give a larger number.

There is no doubt that the Housing problem is the basic problem of every industrial district. In my opinion the perfection of all other Health Services depends upon the rapid solution of this problem. In parts of our district at the present time

it is almost a tragic circumstance. Numbers of houses are overdue for demolition. In those homes families only exist. How they keep up even a semblance of cheerfulness and cleanliness is difficult to understand, but it must be dulling to the intellect and must create an apathy which will react badly on family life.

Even more harmful is the gross overcrowding in the district. Two families, or even more, existing—and existing is the only suitable expression—in the same house. If those conditions were to continue it would mean the ultimate destruction of family life as the past has known it. Amusement and comfort must be found somewhere, and the “where” found is seldom even approaching an ideal.

The Council fully realise the urgency of this almost insoluble situation and are doing their best to hurry on the erection of new houses. Time certainly will solve the difficulty, but Time’s path is meanwhile strewn with misery. There surely are more immediate solutions.

During the year, 61 new houses were erected:—

Prefabricated Bungalows by Local Authority ...	50
By Private Enterprise	10
Permanent Houses by Local Authority	1
	—
Total	61
	—

It scarcely touches, however, on the fringe of our requirements.

The area of our district is 6,307 acres. The rateable value is £65,745. The sum represented by a penny rate is £245.

The principal industry of the district is mining. In Walsall Wood there are one or two brickworks. One or two small factories have started in this district. These employ females for the most part.

Mr. A. Wikeley, M.I.Mun.E., Engineer and Surveyor to the Council, has kindly submitted the following statement for inclusion in the **Report**:—

TOWN PLANNING.

Whilst there is not much evidence in the District of any positive planning, it is hoped that during the next three years considerable progress will be made. Steps have already been taken to zone certain land for development for industrial purposes and it is anticipated that this development will take place possibly over the next ten years. It seems more than likely that even after the passing of the Town Planning Bill, the Local Authority will be responsible for a great deal of the planning of the area.

REFUSE COLLECTION.

Collection is still carried out on the maximum of a six-day basis, but owing to the plant available and the increasing number of dust bins (which I think are welcome on all sides), it is becoming very difficult to cope with the collection of all refuse on a weekly basis, but with the expansion of plant and the greater control of tips, it is hoped not only further to safeguard the health of the District, but to make more efficient the refuse collection service.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

The new Disposal Works at Norton Canes (opened in 1939) are working satisfactorily, but unfortunately many minor repairs have to be carried out. The treatment is the usual for a small Works, that of sedimentation tanks and filters; and, due to the sewage being of a mild variety, the effluent from the Works is highly satisfactory. Due to colliery subsidence and other causes, it will be necessary for the Works at Walsall Wood to be replaced at a very early date.

SEWERAGE.

The sewerage system of the area was extended in 1939 at Norton Canes, but investigation has shown that there are still far too many houses not connected to the system. Here again, due to colliery subsidence and the Clayhanger flooding, it will be necessary to re-design the sewerage system for the whole of the Urban District and this should be done with the least possible delay, as a major fracture in the gravity sewer and the rising main at Clayhanger would have disastrous results, which would be very prejudicial to the health of the whole district."

BIRTHS, 1946.

Live Births—

			Male.		Female.		Total.
Legitimate	...	...	243	...	210	...	453
Illegitimate	...	...	5	...	13	...	18

Still Births—

Legitimate	...	...	9	...	6	...	15
Illegitimate	...	...	—	...	1	...	1

DEATHS, 1946.

Deaths numbered 221 — 128 Males and 93 Females.
There were no deaths from Puerperal Causes.

This shows a Death Rate of 10.5 per thousand of the population.

The rate for England and Wales is 11.5.

The Infantile Mortality Rate per thousand live births
was 40.3

Legitimate infants per thousand legitimate live births
was 41.9

Illegitimate infants per thousand live births was —
No illegitimate deaths.

Deaths from Measles Nil.

Deaths resulting from Whooping Cough 3

Deaths resulting from Diarrhoea (under 2 years) ... 1

The number of deaths for the two previous years is given
in the following table:—

DEATHS.

Cause	Male	Female	1946 Total	1945	1944
Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers	—	—	—	—	—
Cerebro Spinal Fever	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough.. ..	2	1	3	1	2
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	1
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	5	4	9	7	14
Other Forms of Tuberculosis	2	—	2	—	2
Syphilitic Diseases	—	—	—	—	1
Influenza	3	1	4	2	4
Measles	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis and Polio-Encephalitis..	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Encephalitis	—	—	—	—	—
Cancer of Buccal cavity, Oesophagus and Uterus	1	—	1	—	—
Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum	2	3	5	4	1
Cancer of Breast	—	4	4	3	4
Cancer of other sites	11	6	17	13	15
Diabetes	—	1	1	1	2
Intracranial vascular diseases	15	13	28	18	20
Heart Diseases	42	25	67	50	57
Other diseases of circulatory system	3	1	4	2	3
Bronchitis	10	7	17	18	11
Pneumonia.. ..	5	5	10	14	13
Other respiratory diseases	2	1	3	3	2
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	1	1	2	3	—
Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	1	—	1	3	2
Appendicitis	—	1	1	—	—
Other digestive diseases	1	3	4	6	4
Nephritis	3	—	3	5	9
Puerperal and Post-abortion sepsis	—	—	—	—	—
Other Maternal causes	—	—	—	2	1
Premature Birth	3	2	5	7	5
Congenital Malformation, Birth Injuries ..	2	3	5	6	8
Suicide	—	—	—	—	2
Road Traffic Accidents	2	1	3	5	2
Other violent causes	2	2	4	9	5
All other causes	10	8	18	21	26
All causes ..	128	93	221	203	216

In the comparison of the three years, 1946, shows an increase in the following causes :—Cardiac Disease, Intracranial Vascular Disease and Cancer.

DEATHS — AGE DISTRIBUTION.

Under 1 year	1-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-30	30-40	40-50	50-60	60-70	Over 70	Total
19	7	1	1	3	8	9	12	22	39	100	221

Under one year there were 19 deaths.
63% of the deaths occurred in persons over 60 years.
37% were under 60 years.

BIRTHS.

The total number of Births is 471.

A Birth Rate of 22.4 per thousand of the population.

It is interesting to compare my first report to this Council in 1911. The Birth Rate then was 32 per thousand of the population. The estimated population was 16,896 and the Births 542. In 1913 the population was 17,235 and the Births 631, a rate of 36.6 per thousand of the population.

Of the total legitimate Births, 243 were males and 210 females; 18 Births were illegitimate.

Still Births numbered 16, one of which was illegitimate. This gives a still birth rate of 0.76 per thousand of the population. For England and Wales the rate is 0.53. For 126 Great Towns and London it is 0.67.

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR.

	Under 1 month	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-6	6-9	9-12	Total
Premature Birth ..	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6
Congenital Debility and Marasmus ..	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Congenital Malformation ..	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Broncho Pneumonia ..	1	2	—	1	—	2	—	—	6
Pyloric Stenosis ..	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Intussusception ..	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Whooping Cough ..	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	2
Tuberculosis (Miliary)	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
									19

This year's Infantile Mortality is a great improvement on last year, and although not the lowest during the last ten years it may be regarded as good. The Infantile Mortality per thousand live births was 41.9.

The rate for the last ten years is given in the following table:—

INFANTILE MORTALITY FOR THE LAST TEN YEARS.

Year.		Number.		Rate.
1936	...	25	...	69.4
1937	...	31	...	85.0
1938	...	27	...	75.6
1939	...	16	...	40.6
1940	...	17	...	40.6
1941	...	21	...	53.1
1942	...	27	...	62.0
1943	...	26	...	62.3
1944	...	28	...	60.3
1945	...	31	...	83.5

The number of deaths from Congenital Debility and Marasmns was 8. As in most Districts, these causes account for the largest proportion of deaths. In 1945 there were 13 deaths from this cause, and in 1944 there were also 13. Broncho Pneumonia accounted for six deaths.

The Welfare Centres and Ante-natal Clinics are, I consider, having a very good effect in training the mothers in infant feeding, and in detecting early illness and abnormalities in pregnancy. Both are, in a way, specialities which require special experience.

The following table is inserted for comparison :—

Birth Rates, Civilian Death Rates, Analysis of Mortality, Maternal Mortality and Case Rates for certain Infectious Diseases in the Year 1946. Provisional figures based on Weekly and Quarterly Returns.

	England and Wales	126 County Boro's and great towns including London	148 smaller towns (Resident pop. 25,000 to 50,000 at 1931 census)	London Adm. County	Brownhills
Rates per 1,000 Civilian population					
Live Births	19.1 *	22.2	21.3	21.5	21.5
Still Births	0.53 *	0.67	0.59	0.54	0.76
Deaths:—					
All causes	11.5 *	12.7	11.7	12.7	10.5
Typhoid and Paratyphoid ..	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Scarlet Fever ..	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Whooping Cough..	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.10
Diphtheria	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.00
Influenza	0.15	0.13	0.14	0.12	0.10
Smallpox	0.00	0.00	0.00	—	0.00
Measles	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.00
Rates per 1,000 live births					
Deaths under 1 year of age	43 †	46	37	41	41.9
Deaths from Diarrhoea & Enter- itis under 2 years of age	4.4	6.1	2.8	4.2	2.2
A dash (—) signifies that there were no deaths † per 1,000 related births.					
* Rates per 1,000 total population.					
Notifications:—					
Rates per 1,000 Civilian Population.					
Typhoid Fever ..	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.00
Paratyphoid Fever	0.02	0.02	0.01	0.01	0.00
Cerebro Spinal Fever	0.05	0.05	0.04	0.06	0.04
Scarlet Fever ..	1.38	1.51	1.33	1.42	2.9
Whooping Cough..	2.28	2.48	2.05	2.22	6.1
Diphtheria	0.28	0.32	0.31	0.24	0.09
Erysipelas	0.22	0.25	0.22	0.27	0.33
Smallpox	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Measles	3.92	4.73	3.70	7.35	4.8
Pneumonia	0.89	1.02	0.74	0.75	1.6

Rates per 1,000 Total Births (Live and Still):—

(a) Notifications:—

	England and Wales	126 County Boro's and great towns including London	148 smaller towns (Resident pop. 25,000 to 50,000 at 1931 census)	London Adm. County	Brownhills
Puerperal Fever Puerperal Pyrexia	8.50	10.35	7.63	1.62 *9.68	0.00

(b) Maternal Mortality in England and Wales:—

No. 140 Abortion with Sepsis	No. 141 Abortion without Sepsis	No. 147 Puerperal Infections	Nos. 142 - 6, 148 - 150 other.	Brownhills
0.13	0.06	0.18	1.06	0.00

Abortion:—Mortality per million women aged 15-45, in England and Wales.

No. 140, with Sepsis.	No. 141, without Sepsis.	Brownhills
11	5	Nil.

* Including Puerperal Fever.

There are three Nursing Associations in the district, to each of which the Council contributes £50 for Nursing and attention to certain types of cases.

Bacteriological and Clinical examinations are done at the County Laboratory, Stafford.

The following examinations were made during 1946:—

Sputum for Tubercle Bacillus, 18 tests; 16 were negative, 2 were positive.

Swabs examined for Diphtheria, 19, all of which were negative.

Two specimens of faeces were examined for the Typhoid and Para-Typhoid Group; both were negative.

Birmingham, Wolverhampton and Walsall Hospitals are available for surgical, medical, eye, ear, throat and skin care.

Hammerwich Cottage Hospital serves a considerable part of the district. Here the services of a Birmingham Surgeon and Physician and a Gynaecologist are available.

The Council is a constituent authority of the Mid-Staffordshire Joint Hospital Board.

No difficulty has been experienced in getting cases admitted.

The Ambulance service for the district is very satisfactory. There are two ambulances—the Council's ambulance and one St. John ambulance.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

No cases of Dysentery, Puerperal Pyrexia, Acute Polimyelitis, Typhoid or Paratyphoid were notified.

Only two cases of Diphtheria were notified. Neither of these cases had been immunised.

During my thirty-six years as Medical Officer of Health, the lowest previously recorded number was three, in 1933.

During that year the lowest number of cases of Scarlet Fever was also recorded—nine cases.

This year, 61 cases of Scarlet Fever rather upsets the comparison between the two years.

I think I may state with confidence that the low number of two in the case of Diphtheria is due to immunisation.

Reinforcing injections of T.A.F. are now strongly advised by the Chief Medical Officer of Health on entry of the child to school, and again at ten years of age.

The following is an extract from a letter issued to Medical Officers of Health by him during the year 1947:—

“It may be observed that in 1945, of 593 children who died from Diphtheria only 36 were reported to have been immunised, and from the information that is available it is known that about 30 of those 36 had not received a reinforcing dose subsequent to primary immunisation in infancy.”

The total number of children immunised in the Brownhills district under 15 years of age is 4,188—a percentage of 78.5.

The number immunised under 5 years of age is 1,610.

Between 5 years and 14 years of age, the number is 2,578.

TUBERCULOSIS.

	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Under 1 year	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—
1 to 5 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5 to 15 „	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
15 to 25 „	1	5	—	—	1	2	—	—
25 to 35 „	1	2	—	—	3	—	—	1
35 to 45 „	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
45 to 55 „	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
55 to 65 „	2	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
65 and over	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Total ..	5	9	1	—	6	3	1	1

OCCUPATION OF PULMONARY TUBERCULAR CASES.

		Male.	Female.
Factory	...	2	5 (One worked in dust from a grinding process)
Miner	...	2	—
Student	...	1	—
Carpenter	...	1	—
Housewife	...	—	2
School	...	1	—

Six of the cases notified in the year died during the year.

Four cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum were reported.

All the cases cleared up without leaving any defect in eyesight.

I would like to take this opportunity of thanking my Chief Sanitary Inspector for the kindly and willing assistance given me during the year, more especially considering the difficulties with which he has had to cope during his first year of service in this district.

I would also wish to thank the Officials of other Departments and the Council as a whole for the interest they have taken in Health matters.

Yours faithfully,

ROBERT G. BRADFORD,

Medical Officer of Health.

BROWNHILLS URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Health Department,
Council Offices,
Brownhills.

A REPORT OF THE CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR ON THE SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE URBAN DISTRICT OF BROWNHILLS.

*To the Chairman and Members of the
Brownhills Urban District Council.*

MR. CHAIRMAN, MRS. JACKSON AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit the Annual Report on the Sanitary Circumstances and administration of the Urban District for the year 1946.

General progress has been good and improvements have been effected in every branch of the work. Many of the extraneous duties of the War period have disappeared and I hope the day is not too far distant when it will no longer be possible to say "some of the lesser important duties have had to be neglected." The country-wide shortage of materials means that repairs must be in the essential category before they are justified, that more visits are required and that more time must be allowed for compliance with statutory notices.

The shortage of qualified assistance has emphasised the difficulties experienced, as a satisfactory sanitary service can only be maintained if adequate staff is available. This district, predominantly working class in its nature, makes great use of its Sanitary Department, and I am pleased that the Council have consented to an increase in staff so as to meet demands made upon this service, and to help in performing our routine functions.

Mining subsidence continues to be a problem. The repair of damage to public sewers and roads is a constant drain on the meagre financial resources of the area. Houses are also affected by subsidence and in some cases they have had to be demolished

as dangerous to the inhabitants. This serious loss of housing accommodation counteracts to some extent the new building programme, and private owners receive no compensation for any loss incurred. The regressive rate tax (at 25/- in the pound for 1947) falls heavily on this mining community, and even "essential" expenditure has to be pruned to arrive at this figure.

I would like to thank the members of the Health Committee for their support throughout the year, and to place on record my appreciation of the assistance given by your Medical Officer of Health, Dr. R. G. Bradford.

This introduction would be incomplete without a reference to Mr. D. Bradbury, who retired after approximately fifty years' service as a Sanitary Inspector to this Authority. He has a knowledge of the district which is unsurpassed, his anecdotes from the less enlightened years of Local Government are most amusing, and his record of service is one of which he can be justifiably proud.

Yours obediently,

JOHN WILSON,

Chief Sanitary Inspector.

WATER SUPPLY.

The public supply for the District is obtained from the South Staffordshire Waterworks Company.

Samples have been taken and submitted to the County Laboratory for Bacteriological examination as a routine measure, and also as a check that the supply had not been affected by the extensive colliery subsidence.

There are 22 houses supplied with water from wells, and these have all been sampled. Six of these houses will be provided with piped water supply by individual action under Section 138 of the Public Health Act, 1936, as amended by Section 30 of the Water Act, 1945. A scheme has been proposed to supply water to twelve of the remaining houses, and I hope this work will be completed before another report is presented.

The remaining four houses are isolated and the provision of a piped water supply is not a reasonable proposition.

The public supply has proved both satisfactory in quality and quantity and no samples were unsatisfactory.

Total houses in the district	...	...	5,405
Houses with direct piped water supply	...	...	5,352
Houses with wells	...	...	22
Houses with stand-pipes	...	...	31

The following information has been supplied by R. A. Robertson, B.Sc., M.Inst.C.E., Engineer in Chief, South Staffordshire Waterworks Company:—

1. The water supply to this area and to its several parts has been satisfactory both in quality and quantity.
2. The supply to the Urban District of Brownhills is afforded in part from pumping stations outside the boundaries of the Authority, only one station (Sandhills pumping station) lying near the Council's area. All the supplying stations are examined regularly, both bacteriologically and chemically and bacteriological samples are examined of all raw water. During 1946, 22 samples were examined of the water from Sandhills Pumping Station. None of these samples contained *B.coli*, and only one sample out of the 22 contained any coliform bacteria, and these confirmed intermediates in 100 ml. Regular monthly tap

samples were taken from two points within the boundaries of the Authority, viz., the Waterman's house at Norton Canes, and the Municipal Buildings, Brownhills. The 12 samples from Norton Canes were all free from coliform bacteria, and of the 13 samples examined from Municipal Buildings, Brownhills, only one, taken in October, contained coliform bacteria, which were identified as intermediates in 50 ml.

The average chemical results for 1946 of the two tap samples from Waterman, Norton Canes, and Municipal Buildings, Brownhills, are given below (expressed in parts per million):—

	Norton Canes.		Brownhills.	
pH	...	7.7	...	7.5
Alkalinity (CaCO ₃)	...	80	...	12.6
Chlorides (Cl)	...	14.6	...	26.0
Ammoniated Nitrogen (N)	...	Trace	...	Trace
Albuminoid Nitrogen (N)	...	Trace	...	Trace
Oxidised Nitrogen (N)	...	3.0	...	7.9
Oxy Abs (3 hr. 27°)12	...	.12
Temporary Hardness	...	76	...	121
Permanent Hardness	...	38	...	103
Total Hardness	...	114	...	224
Iron (Fe)03	...	.02
Manganese (Mn)	...	Nil	...	Nil
Zinc (Zn)	...	Nil	...	Nil
Poisonous Metals				
(Cu & Pb)	...	Nil	...	Nil
Free Cl.06	...	Nil

3. The waters are not liable to plumbo-solvency, but are tested at intervals for lead. During 1946, the six samples examined were free from any detectable trace of lead.
4. Sterilisation of waters is carried out at most of the pumping stations. This is largely precautionary. Contamination of mains following bursts, or laying of new mains, and of service reservoirs following emptying, is safeguarded by chlorination. Special apparatus and staff are available for this purpose. The mains, reservoirs, etc., are not brought in re-use until the water has been examined and pronounced satisfactory.

WATER SAMPLES.

Sample No.	Address.	Source.	Count.		Coli Aerogenes Content (Presumptive coli) after 48 hours incubation at 37°c.	Remarks.
			On nutrient agar after 48 hours incubation at 37°c. colonies per ml.	On nutrient agar after 72 hours incubation at 20-22°c. colonies per ml.		
1	Burntwood Road, Norton Canes.	Tap. Not sterilised. S.S.W.W. Co.	5	7	Nil	No bacteriological evidence of recent sewage pollution
2	The Square, Norton Canes.	Tap. Not sterilised. S.S.W.W. Co.	9	13	Nil	As above
3	Church Road, Norton Canes.	Tap. Not sterilised. S.S.W.W. Co.	10	15	Nil	As above
4	Watling Street, Norton Canes.	Tap. Not sterilised. S.S.W.W. Co.	16	23	Nil	As above
5	Keepers Cottage, Lime Lane, Wyrley.	Brick lined well. Bucket used. Well has wooden cover.	6	9	Nil	As above
6	231. Watling Street, Norton Canes.	Brick lined well. Bucket used. Well has wooden cover.	13	17	Nil	As above
7	338, Hednesford Rd., Norton Canes.	Tap. S.S.W.W. Co.	4	9	Nil	As above
8	364, Hednesford Rd., Norton Canes.	Tap. S.S.W.W. Co.	7	12	Nil	As above

WATER SAMPLES—Continued.

No. Sample	Address.	Source.	Count.		Coli Aerogenes Content (Presumptive coli) after 48 hours incubation at 37°c.	Remarks.
			On nutrient agar after 48 hours incubation at 37°c. colonies per ml.	On nutrient agar after 72 hours in- cubation at 20-22°c. colonies per ml.		
9	226, Watling Street, Brownhills.	Well. Brick lined.	62	122	50	Bacteriological evidence of some sewage pollution
10	24, Spot Lane, Clayhanger.	Tap. S.S.W.W. Co.	11	15	Nil	No bacteriological evidence of recent sewage pollution
11	40, Bridge Street, Clayhanger.	Tap. S.S.W.W. Co.	5	10	Nil	As above
12	36, Bridge Street, Clayhanger.	Tap. S.S.W.W. Co.	9	13	Nil	As above
13	36 & 38, Green Lane, Walsall Wood.	Well	216	390	Over 180	Bacteriological evidence of heavy sewage pollution
14	40 & 42, Green Lane, Walsall Wood.	Well	236	372	Over 180	As above
15	87 & 89, Albutts Rd., Brownhills.	Well	95	186	Over 180	As above
16	85, Albutts Road, Brownhills.	Well	140	234	Over 180	As above

WATER SAMPLES—Continued.

Sample No.	Address.	Source.	Count.		Coli Aerogenes Content (Presumptive coli) after 48 hours incubation at 37°c.	Remarks.
			On nutrient agar after 48 hours incubation at 37°c. colonies per ml.	On nutrient agar after 72 hours incubation at 20-22°c. colonies per ml.		
17	79, 81 & 83, Albutts Road, Brownhills.	Well	184	350	Over 180	Bacteriological evidence of heavy sewage pollution
18	44, Norton East Rd., Norton Canes.	Well	116	225	Over 180	As above
19	17, Canal Side, Walsall Wood.	Pump	9	14	Nil	No bacteriological evidence of recent excretal pollution
20	10 & 12, Holly Lane, Walsall Wood.	Covered well. Bucket & windlass.	17	28	8	Bacteriological evidence of slight excretal pollution
21	231, Watling Street, Norton Canes.	Covered well. Bucket & windlass.	47	77	2	Reasonably Satisfactory
22	64, Walsall Road, Norton Canes.	Pump	33	78	Over 180	Bacteriological evidence of heavy excretal pollution
23	Brockhurst Farm, Brownhills Road, Norton Canes.	Well with cover. Shallow. Obtained by dipping.	315	516	Over 180	Bacteriological evidence of heavy excretal pollution

HOUSING.

GENERAL CONDITIONS.

Housing is the biggest problem confronting any Local Authority. Ex-Servicemen, newly-weds and others, living in lodgings, coupled with overcrowding and insanitary circumstances, cannot live a normal family life. The effects on bodily health are great, but the effect on the mind is immeasurable.

No estimate can be made of the extent of overcrowding and only a complete survey of the district would determine the exact position and provide a reliable answer to the query, "How many houses are required?"

Housing repair work is limited by the shortage of building materials, so that only the most urgent cases can be dealt with. A few owners use the shortage of materials as an excuse for not shouldering their responsibilities, but many others feel that an increase in rent should be permitted in order to meet the increased costs.

Total Houses in the District	...	...	...	5,405
Number of Council Houses (traditional)	...	...	...	1,267
Number of Prefabricated Houses	...	...	...	50
Houses erected in 1946—				
By private enterprise	...	...	...	10
By Local Authority—prefabricated			...	50
permanent	...	...	...	1
				<hr/>
			Total	...
				61

COUNCIL HOUSES.

Mr. C. R. Closs, F.I.Hsg., Housing Manager, has supplied the following information in respect of Houses built prior to the late war:—

Act under which constructed.	Bedrooms			Bungalows			Totals
	Two	Three	Four				
1919 ...	—	250	—	...	—	...	250
1923 ...	—	154	—	...	—	...	154
1924 ...	92	158	—	...	—	...	250
1925 ...	102	344	30	...	6	...	482
1930 ...	44	56	30	...	—	...	130
Totals ...	238	962	60	...	6	...	1,266

FUTURE BUILDING PROGRAMME.

Fifty-one permanent houses of conventional type are in course of erection. Their design is unusual and pleasing to the eye, and is a step in altering the phrase "Not bad for Council houses" to "They are good; they are Council houses."

Sufficient land is available to accommodate 1,340 houses and these will be built by direct labour and contract.

At the time of writing I am informed that a number of aluminium houses (prefabricated) for miners have been allocated to this area.

PROCEDURE UNDER THE HOUSING ACT.

Section 11, Housing Act, 1936.

9 Houses have been dealt with as " unfit not repairable." These houses were subject to continuous flooding due to extensive colliery subsidence, and as a result water, gas and electricity were cut off and the drainage system ceased to function.

A Ministry of Health Inspector agreed that demolition was the only possible course under these exceptional circumstances.

Individual Unfit Houses dealt with under the Housing Act, 1936, Section 11.

Situation.	Date of Demolition Order.
24, Bridge Street, Clayhanger	20th November, 1946.
26, " " "	" " "
30, " " "	" " "
32, " " "	" " "
34, " " "	" " "
36, " " "	" " "
38, " " "	" " "
40, " " "	" " "
56; " " "	" " "

The Council have decided to provide alternative accommodation in each case.

Section 9, Housing Act, 1936.

Four notices were served during the year and the Council are executing the work in default.

Ten notices outstanding from 1945 are now being complied with by the owners.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

Norton Canes was re-sewered in 1939 and a new disposal works was constructed. The sewage to be treated is mainly of a domestic type and the effluent is satisfactory.

Brownhills West, Clayhanger, Brownhills and Walsall Wood are sewered to an older type of sewage disposal plant at Walsall Wood. This plant is not satisfactory, and Mr. A. Wikeley, Engineer & Surveyor, has already tackled the question of repair and reconstruction.

Shelfield area is drained to the Goscote Joint Sewage Committee Works.

REFUSE DISPOSAL.

The Council utilize five tips. They are all in an unsatisfactory condition and (as stated in my report dated 30th August, 1946) I consider that steps should be taken to warrant the use of the title "controlled tips."

The Engineer & Surveyor has only been with this authority for a few months, and has inherited many pressing problems. He has, however, promised that the subject of refuse collection shall receive attention.

SANITARY ACCOMMODATION.

Number of Houses	...	...	...	...	5,405
" " " served by water closets	...	...	...	...	4,876
" " " " " privies	...	...	...	...	130
" " " " " pails	...	...	...	...	397
" " " " " bins	...	...	...	...	5,129
" " " " " ashpits	...	...	...	...	276

During the year 74 conversions were carried out.

Where a public sewer is available I would like to see every house provided with a water closet. This can be achieved if the local authority decide to contribute one half the cost of each conversion. I hope that in the near future a scheme to carry out all conversions will be adopted.

186 Ashplaces have been abolished and dustbins provided. In order to assist owners to comply with notices, dustbins have been purchased in bulk by the Department, and sold as required. Altogether 267 bins have been supplied in this manner.

SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS MADE DURING YEAR.

Total premises visited	...	...	...	...	...	...	3,182
Reasons for visits:—							
Housing Act—Full Inspections	...	...	...	...	...	...	46
—General Survey	...	...	...	...	...	...	177
—Overcrowding	...	...	...	...	...	...	14
Houses—Verminous	...	...	...	...	...	...	19
Licensed Premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	36
Dangerous Houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	21
Tents, Vans and Sheds	...	...	...	...	...	...	277
Conversions	...	...	...	...	...	...	502
Ashplaces	...	...	...	...	...	...	590
Dustbins	...	...	...	...	...	...	408
Water closets	...	...	...	...	...	...	274
Cesspools	...	...	...	...	...	...	59
Pail closets	...	...	...	...	...	...	146
Privy middens	...	...	...	...	...	...	195
Drains—defective	...	...	...	...	...	...	124
—new and tested	...	...	...	...	...	...	171
Factories	...	...	...	...	...	...	33
Public Conveniences	...	...	...	...	...	...	13
Cinemas	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Other Sanitary defects	...	...	...	...	...	...	247
Keeping of animals	...	...	...	...	...	...	14
Water supply to houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	20
Sewage works	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Refuse tips	...	...	...	...	...	...	19
Farms, Cowsheds, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	...	34
Dairies	...	...	...	...	...	...	31
Fish Fryers	...	...	...	...	...	...	23
Other Food premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	28
Food Inspections	...	...	...	...	...	...	19
Butchers' shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	21
Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	19

SERVICE OF NOTICES.

Number of Informal Notices served	...	...	...	...	336
Number of Informal Notices complied with	...	...	...	...	208

Statutory Notices served :—

Act and Section.					No. served.	Complied with.
Section 75. P.H.A./36	...	...	...	...	163	112
Section 44 1(b) P.H.A./36	...	...	...	...	23	16
Section 45. P.H.A./36	...	...	...	...	16	13
Section 39 P.H.A./36	...	...	...	...	4	2
Section 50. P.H.A./36	...	...	...	...	5	4
Section 93. P.H.A./36	...	...	...	...	12	4
Section 83. P.H.A./36	...	...	...	...	1	1
Section 9. Housing Act/36	...	...	...	...	4	—

Notices not complied with are reported to the Health Committee with a view to enforcement.

DETAILS OF REPAIRS AND IMPROVEMENTS EFFECTED BY WRITTEN NOTICE.

Water closets provided in lieu of pails	...	...	...	...	4
Water closets provided in lieu of privy middens	...	...	...	...	70
New water closet pedestals provided	...	...	...	...	11
Flushing cisterns repaired	...	...	...	...	18
New flushing cisterns provided	...	...	...	...	8
Other repairs to closet accommodation	...	...	...	...	6
Drains cleansed	...	...	...	...	24
Drains repaired	...	...	...	...	10
Sinks	...	...	...	...	1
Cesspools repaired	...	...	...	...	18
Ashplaces abolished	...	...	...	...	186
Dustbins provided	...	...	...	...	267
Ashplaces cleansed	...	...	...	...	10
Piped water supply provided	...	...	...	...	4
Water supply pipes repaired	...	...	...	...	17
Premises cleansed	...	...	...	...	3
Roofs repaired	...	...	...	...	10
Ceiling plaster	...	...	...	...	11
Rain water pipes	...	...	...	...	6
Washing accommodation	...	...	...	...	3
Cooking Ranges, etc.	...	...	...	...	7
Pointing of walls and chimney stacks	...	...	...	...	10
Windows	...	...	...	...	5
Floors	...	...	...	...	10
Staircases, doors, etc.	...	...	...	...	5

SHOPS ACT, 1934.

The majority of shops in this area are of the small type attached to living accommodation. There are 162 shops registered by the Food Office for the sale of foodstuffs, which supply 21,020 inhabitants. With 3.88 persons per house this means that there is one registered food shop to every 34 houses.

No defects in temperature and ventilation have been found, but two notices in respect of sanitary accommodation have been served. Both these notices have been complied with.

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION.

Brownhills is just outside the Black Country, and industrial atmospheric pollution is limited to the smoke from colliery plants.

VERMINOUS HOUSES.

The eradication of vermin has been carried out by the utilization of one or other of the D.D.T. preparations.

COUNCIL PROPERTY.

Eradication of bed bugs	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Eradication of fleas	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1

PRIVATE PROPERTY.

Eradication of bed bugs	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Eradication of fleas	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1

In no case has there been evidence of reinfestation.

SLAUGHTER HOUSES.

There are fourteen slaughter houses in the district and all have been licensed.

An outline of the future policy of the Government, in respect of slaughtering, would be welcomed by Sanitary Inspectors and by Butchers.

The use of public abattoirs in wartime has surely sounded the death knell of the innumerable private slaughter houses—a policy long advocated by Sanitary Inspectors. Over centralisation has its disadvantages but it is suggested that public abattoirs should be provided in all large centres of population, and some guidance would assist authorities in their planning schemes.

Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933.

Licences to slaughter animals have been renewed as required.

MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION.

The slaughter of animals for human consumption in this area takes place at the Walsall Public Abattoir. A few cottagers' pigs have been inspected on the request of the owners concerned, and advice given on the conditions found.

Meat distribution leaves much to be desired. The distributors often do not wear headgear and the interior surfaces of the vans are not such as to facilitate cleaning.

Frequent inspections have been made of Butchers' shops, and in two instances minor defects were remedied by verbal notice. The remainder of the shops have been well maintained.

The following foodstuffs have been condemned as unfit for human consumption :—

1 x 6 lbs. Ox Tongue.
3 x 2½ lbs. Luncheon Meat.
1 x 4 lbs. Brisket Beef.
2 x 1½ lbs. Sausage Meat.
36 x 14½ tins Evaporated Unsweetened Milk.
8 x 16 oz. tins Baked Beans.
4 x 16 oz. tins Stewed Steak.
3 stones Cod (cured).
16½ stones Herrings.
2 x 15 oz. tins Pilchards.
25 x 14 lbs. Isle of Man Kippers.
27 lbs. 2 ozs. Smoked Bacon.
24¼ lbs. Bacon.
8 hams (weight 48½ lbs.).
1 x 19½ tins Carrots.
30 lbs. Jam.
10 lbs. 2 ozs. Cheese.
33¼ lbs. Danish Butter.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938, SECTION 14.

When I commenced duties on the 1st March, the total premises registered under Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, was one. There are no large scale manufacturers, but small premises need as much supervision as the larger ones.

(a) Ice Cream Premises.

Four premises are registered for the manufacture and sale of Ice Cream and two for the sale of Ice Cream only. Regular inspections are made and all the premises have been maintained in a satisfactory manner.

My next report will contain more details of this work and the effect of the Ice Cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations, 1947.

(b) Premises Registered for the Preparation or Manufacture of Preserved Food, etc.

Ten premises are registered for this purpose. They all consist of rooms attached to a Butcher's shop, and used for the manufacture of the usual ancillaries to the sale of meat.

(c) Fish Fryers.

Twenty-four premises are registered for the sale of fried fish. Improvements have been effected at several of the shops, and only one case of unsatisfactory cleanliness has been found. The latter was failure to remove the waste materials from the place of preparation.

LICENSED PREMISES.

There are 36 public houses in the area. These have all been inspected and the Brewery Companies have carried out the most urgent works required and the remainder are receiving attention.

The sanitary accommodation at one public house consisted of privy middens, although the sewer was available. The urinals at several others were badly sited and these are receiving attention. The Brewery Companies have co-operated in providing suitable washing accommodation for glasses.

MILK AND DAIRIES ACTS: REGISTRATIONS, Etc.

There are at present 25 producers and 25 retailers of milk in the district. Much of the milk produced in this area is sold in bulk to pasteurizing firms in the neighbouring large towns.

In addition to the routine inspections of cowsheds and dairies, more detailed surveys are being made so as to bridge the gap of the war years and provide an up-to-date record. One completely new cowshed and dairy is in course of construction, and at least two other cowsheds are scheduled for reconstruction as materials become available. Minor improvements have been carried out at several other premises, but there are still others which fall short of the desirable standard.

MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS) ORDER.

There are no producers of designated Milks under the above order in the district, but by the time of my next report this statement will be altered.

The following supplementary licences have been granted annually:—

T.T.	...	...	...	3
Pasteurized	...	...	...	5

INFECTIOUS DISEASES AND DISINFECTIONS.

The Local Authority is a member of the South Staffordshire Joint Hospital Board, and all cases of Infectious Diseases are removed by the Board's Ambulance.

Disinfections have been carried out as required after removal of Infectious cases, as terminal disinfections and after deaths of infectious cases.

AMBULANCE SERVICE.

The Council provide and maintain an Ambulance for use in case of accident, or other emergency, and when not so engaged to convey non-walking cases to hospital for treatment. No charge is made for accident cases, and a reciprocal agreement with neighbouring ambulance authorities proves most useful for meeting all emergencies.

The Ambulance of the St. John Ambulance Brigade is also stationed at the Council House, and is available for use when the Council Ambulance is under repair. This is a most helpful arrangement and I would like to record my appreciation of the co-operation of this body.

CANAL BOAT INSPECTION.

The Canal boats are day-boats without living accommodation. They are chiefly used for the conveyance of coal.

RATS AND MICE INFESTATIONS.

A full-time rodent operative is employed to discharge the delegated powers of rodent control.

The Council entered into the "Private Dwellings Scheme," and it is intended that the whole district shall be covered.

The Sewers, Refuse Tips, Sewage Works, and other Council property have been treated at regular intervals, and good results have been obtained.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

This department is responsible for the usual administration of the Factories Acts and of Section 34 in respect of the provision of Fire Escapes. Most of the factories are of a small type so that only in a few cases are fire escapes required.

The following tables give the necessary details:—

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors).

Premises. (1)	M/c line No. (2)	Number on Register. (3)	Number of			M/c line No. (7)
			Inspections. (4)	Written Notices. (5)	Occupiers prosecuted. (6)	
1. Factories in which Section 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities.	1	13	27	—	—	1
2. Factories not included in (1) to which Section 7 applies (a) Subject to the Local Authorities (Transfer of Enforcement Order), 1938.	2	25	53	2	—	2
(b) Others.	3	—	—	—	—	3
3. Other premises under the Act (excluding out-workers' premises).	4	1	2	1	—	4
Total	...	39	82	3	—	

2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.

Particulars, (1)	M/c line No. (2)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted. (7)	M/c line No. (8)
		Found, (3)	Remedied, (4)	To H.M. Inspector, (5)	Referred By H.M. Inspector, (6)		
Want of Cleanliness (S.1.)	5	1	1	—	—	—	5
Overcrowding (S.2.)	6	—	—	—	—	—	6
Unreasonable temperature (S.3.)	7	—	—	—	—	—	7
Inadequate ventilation (S.4.)	8	—	—	—	—	—	8
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6.)	9	—	—	—	—	—	9
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7.) (a) Insufficient	10	—	—	—	—	—	10
(b) Unsuitable or defective	11	4	3	—	—	—	11
(c) Not separate for sexes	12	—	—	—	—	—	12
Other Offences (not including offences relating to Homework)	13	—	—	—	1	—	13
Total	60	5	4	—	1	—	

PETROL AND CARBIDE LICENCES.

22 Licences to store petrol and 2 to store carbide have been renewed on the payment of the appropriate fee.

TENTS, VANS AND SHEDS.

The large number of 277 visits in respect of tents, vans and sheds has been necessitated by the constant stream of pseudo gypsies who pass this way. The open Common land, coupled with the readily available wood suitable for peg-making, forms an attractive port of call.

Their length of stay is short, camping sites above 100 yards apart can easily be found, and hence it is impossible to take action either under Section 269 (1) or (11). The possibility of obtaining protection under the Town Planning Acts is being investigated, as sites are often left in a filthy state by this nomadic tribe.

